



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION/LEGISLATIVE DINNER held Wednesday, December 15, 2004, at the Greenbelt Marriott, for the purpose of discussing the City's legislative priorities for 2005.

Mayor Davis convened the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

PRESENT WERE Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE State Senator Paul Pinsky; State Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines, and Justin Ross; and Judy Thacher, Legislative Aide to County Councilmember Thomas Dernoga. County Councilmember Douglas J. J. Peters arrived shortly after the meeting began.

Mayor Davis welcomed the legislators and thanked them for attending. The following legislative priorities were identified and discussed.

State Issues

Explore Reallocation of Springhill Lake Recreation Center Bond Funding: Mayor Davis emphasized the importance of this project to the City but said there was a possibility of private funding for it if Springhill Lake was redeveloped as planned. Senator Pinsky said he doubted the Board of Public Works could reprogram it without new legislation if the bill language was specific to Springhill Lake but said the question would require legal review. He said if there were to be new legislation, it would typically assume a 50% cost-share, so the City would be requesting only \$150,000. Mr. Putens asked if the bond money could be used to enhance a recreation center built privately at Springhill Lake. The Senator said there could probably be an amendment to the existing bill to that effect. Delegate Ross stressed the high level of priority in getting this project done, and the City Council agreed.

Protect Municipal Funding Sources: Delegate Gaines mentioned some efforts being made in the area of funding for the Youth Services Bureaus.

Joint State/County Issues

Renovation of Greenbelt Middle School: County Councilmember Peters said he hoped the schedule could be moved up a year, to August of 2008. He said he got \$1million last year and hoped to provide another \$1 million this year, which he was envisioning as the rest of the planning money. He said it would be very helpful if AIMCO came forward with a commitment to a contribution. Mayor Davis said the City was also concerned that basic maintenance was not being done on the facility during the interim.

Mr. Peters suggested taking a tour and making a list. Mr. Roberts said the City had supported using the money for needed work rather than for planning. Ms. Mach added that there was concern on Council and the Advisory Committee on Education that planning was premature without a greater understanding of what the goals for the building were. Mr. Peters said he would pull the list to see what other districts were providing students to the school, in order to increase the base of support. It was recognized that many schools in the county are having comparable or even worse problems.

Opposition to Inter-County Connector/Support for Bi-County Transitway: Senator Pinsky encouraged the City to continue referring to the Purple Line rather than using the "transitway" terminology, which implies acceptance of that concept.

Opposition to Additional Beltway Ramps at Greenbelt Metro Station: the City still considers this to be a request for public money to support private development.

County Issues

New Greenbelt Fire Station: Mr. Peters said Park and Planning is going through its public safety master plan process, and the first step is to get on that plan. He suggested that if the Fire Department could work with a remote station for emergency medical services and keep the existing facility as its headquarters, it would be easier because the cost could be substantially reduced.

County Funding for School Resource Officer: Mayor Davis said the City started this program, and the county has adopted it but without any support for the City's officers.

Information Items

The following were described: problems with the county permitting process; the status of the Metroland development proposal; update on Springhill Lake redevelopment plans.

Other Issues of City Interest

The following were mentioned: additional planning and zoning authority for municipalities; homicide by aggressive driving; full funding of the Bridge to Excellence (Thornton); speed cameras; increased penalties for red light camera violations (assess points, revoke license); funding for the Law Enforcement Equipment Fund; Homeland Security funding; limitation of judicial sentence reconsideration; additional funding for noise barriers; TheBus service issues; and health care coverage for reciprocal beneficiaries.

The legislative priorities of the Maryland Municipal League and the Prince George's County Municipal Association were also mentioned.

Mayor Davis asked if there was any legislation the delegation would like the City's support on. Delegate Ross mentioned the changing of the closing time for liquor stores

from 2 a.m. to 10 p.m. He said it is 9 p.m. in the District and 10 p.m. in Montgomery County.

The legislators thanked the City for its hospitality, and Council thanked them for coming.

The meeting ended at about 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk